

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 23 December 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Kelly, Edward	i	Pozières British Cemetery	link
2 nd Infantry Battalion	i	Ovillers-La-Boisselle France	i
Sergeant #23081	i	Plot 4 Row Q Grave 37	i
Date of Death 9/9/1916	link	Date of Burial 26/6/1919	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record	n/a	Graves Registration Report	7
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	8
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	3	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	4	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	5	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	6	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List		Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other		Reporting and Review	9

Summary of Findings:

The Graves Registration Report form for Plot 4 Row Q Grave 37 lists an Unknown Sergeant of the 2nd Canadian Battalion.

There are ten (10) Sergeants of the 2nd Canadian Battalion listed on the Vimy Memorial but only one (1) of these is for a Sergeant lost near Courcellette, France in 1916. All other Sergeants of the 2nd Battalion are excluded.

Details of Findings:

The findings are conclusive that the remains in Plot 4 Row Q Grave 37 are those of Sergeant Edward L. Kelly #23801 of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 1st Infantry Brigade, 1st Division of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

For the record, we also note that subsequent to our independent investigation of this case we discovered that Norm Christie also suggested this link in Volume 3 Page 120 of his 2013 text *"Sacred Places: Canadian Cemeteries of the Great War"*. There is no information as to whether that was submitted to the CWGC or if any supporting documentation, as included here, was submitted. The commemoration record for Sergeant Kelly has not been modified by the CWGC.

Our findings are based on the following:

1. Sergeant Kelly was reported killed in action in the attack south west of Courcelette, France on September 9, 1916 and there was no record of his burial (Attachment #1).
2. The remains of Sergeant Kelly were not recorded as knowingly found and buried in a registered grave during the war or in the battlefield clearing and concentrations after the armistice. As such, his name was recorded on the Vimy Memorial as a soldier of the Great War with no known grave (Attachment #2).
3. The 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion was in the front line trenches of Courcelette in the Bapaume Sector on September 9, 1916. There were a number of casualties, particularly from heavy machine gun fire from the direction of Martinpuich. During the action on the 9th and 10th there were 43 "Other Ranks" killed and 142 wounded (Attachment #3).
4. The 1st Infantry Brigade of the 1st Canadian Division was in the area of Courcelette on September 9, 1916 and in the area around Pozieres, Courcelette and Martinpuich. All of this was in anticipation of major action to take place the following week to capture the village of Courcelette (Attachment #4).
5. The area where the remains of the Sergeant of the 2nd Infantry Battalion were exhumed are shown on a period trench map at 57d.R35.d, which is the main area between Pozieres and Courcelette (Attachment #5).
6. There are only ten (1) Sergeants of the 2nd Infantry Battalion listed on the Vimy Memorial, signifying that they have no known grave. There is only one (1) Sergeant listed for 1916 and thus there is no question as to the identity of the Sergeant lost at Courcelette, France in September 1916. Eight (8) of the missing Sergeants were lost in 1917 and one (1) in 1918 (Attachment #6).
7. The remains of the Sergeant of the 2nd Infantry Battalion are shown on the "Graves Registration Report Form" (GRRF) to have been buried in Plot 4 Row Q Grave 37 of the Pozieres British Cemetery (Attachment #7).

8. The “Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Re-burials) Burial Report” (COG-BR) is clear that the remains were recovered at 57d.R35.d, as were the remains of Private W. James #18512, also of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, recorded as lost at the same location (Attachment #8). The recovery of the remains of Private James provides confirmation of the presence of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion at that location.

Action Required:

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #9).

The evidence is clear that the remains that were recovered at 57d.R35.d and buried in Plot 4 Row Q Grave 37 of the Pozieres British Cemetery are those of Sergeant Edward L. Kelly #23081 of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Division, Canadian Expeditionary Force. The commemoration details for Sergeant Kelly should be amended to represent these findings.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. REG. NO.	2. SERVICE NO.	3. GRAVE NO.	4. CHRISTIAN NAME
23081	KELLY	Edward L.	
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
2nd. Battalion	9-9-16	649-K-1948	Roman Catholic
9. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN			
"KILLED IN ACTION"			
10. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY			
ATTACK SOUTH WEST OF COURCELLETTE			
NOTE: Items 11, 12 and 13 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.			
11. CEMETERY	12. LOCATION OF CEMETERY	13. GRAVE LOCATION	14. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE
		Grave Plot Row	
15. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN	16. EXPOSURE NO.	17. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO	
18. FURTHER PARTICULARS ON REVERSE SIDE OF SHEET.			

ATTACHMENT #2

NUMBER <u>23081</u>		RANK <u>Sgt</u>		NAME <u>KELLY E.L.</u>		23081	
UNIT <u>2nd Batta</u>		NEXT-OF-KIN:—					
FILE NO. R.L. <u>25. H. 424.</u>						24933	
DATE OF DEATH		CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH				CAS. SHEET NO.	
9-9-16		Killed in Action				A 468	
DATE OF BURIAL		PLACE OF BURIAL		DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE			
A.M.		<i>Forward of Amiens</i> <i>Killed in Area—</i>		<i>Authority on R. L. 26-7a</i> <i>The Somme—</i> <i>Authority on R. L. 25. H. 424.</i>			
		VIMY MEMORIAL					

ATTACHMENT #3

WAR DIARY of the 2nd CANADIAN B^N Army Form C 2118.
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY for the month of
(Erase heading not required). **SEPTEMBER 1916.**

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place.	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	2	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES (BAPAUME Sector).	1/9/16		2nd day in trenches. Trenches in good shape generally, but suffering from the effects of recent heavy rain. Weather fine. Shelling, both our own and that of the enemy, was very heavy.		
- do -	2/9/16		Weather good. Situation normal, although shelling by both sides continued almost incessantly.		
- do -	3/9/16		Weather very fine. Trenches drying up. Bombardment continued.		
- do -	4/9/16		Situation fairly quiet. During this tour in trenches, our losses from enemy shelling were heavy. 25.00 killed, 1 officer and 89 OR wounded. In the evening, we were relieved by the 3rd Bn. Co. Relief completed about 5.30 pm and we moved to Brigade Reserve in Savage Valley, M. LABOISSELLE.		
BRIGADE RESERVE	5/9/16		Supplied working parties of 325 OR. Weather very wet. Situation quiet.		
- do -	6/9/16		Weather fine. Turned working parties of 300 OR.		
- do -	7/9/16		Weather fine. Turned working parties of 300 OR.		
- do -	8/9/16		Weather fine. Turned working parties of 300 OR. Parties were principally employed clearing trenches which had been broken in by enemy's bombardment.		
- do -	9/9/16		Moved up 9 am, to relieve 4th Bn. Co. in front line trenches. Each man carried 140 Rds S.H.A.T. 2 shells Grenades. Battalion moved up via 1st C.I.B. dump, where lights, barbed wire, sandbags etc were picked up. Relief completed 1.25 pm. Companies moved up into position preparatory to attack. 3. pm. Companies entered "JUMPING OFF TRENCH", dug toe-holes, and fixed bayonets. 4.25 pm every-thing in readiness. 4.45 pm. barrage opened, men leaped over parapet, and advanced as close as possible to German front line. 4.45 pm. barrage lifted, and our right companies gained objective. On left, our men were held up for a few minutes, by heavy machine gun fire. At this time one of our officers, Lieut. J. PRINGLE, alone, charged the machine gun which was holding up his men, and silenced the gunners, himself being wounded with bullets. 5.24 pm. message dispatched by O.C. Attacking Party (Major VANDERWATER) to Brig. G.O., stating that objective had been		

Stationery Services Press, X R. 5,000 7115

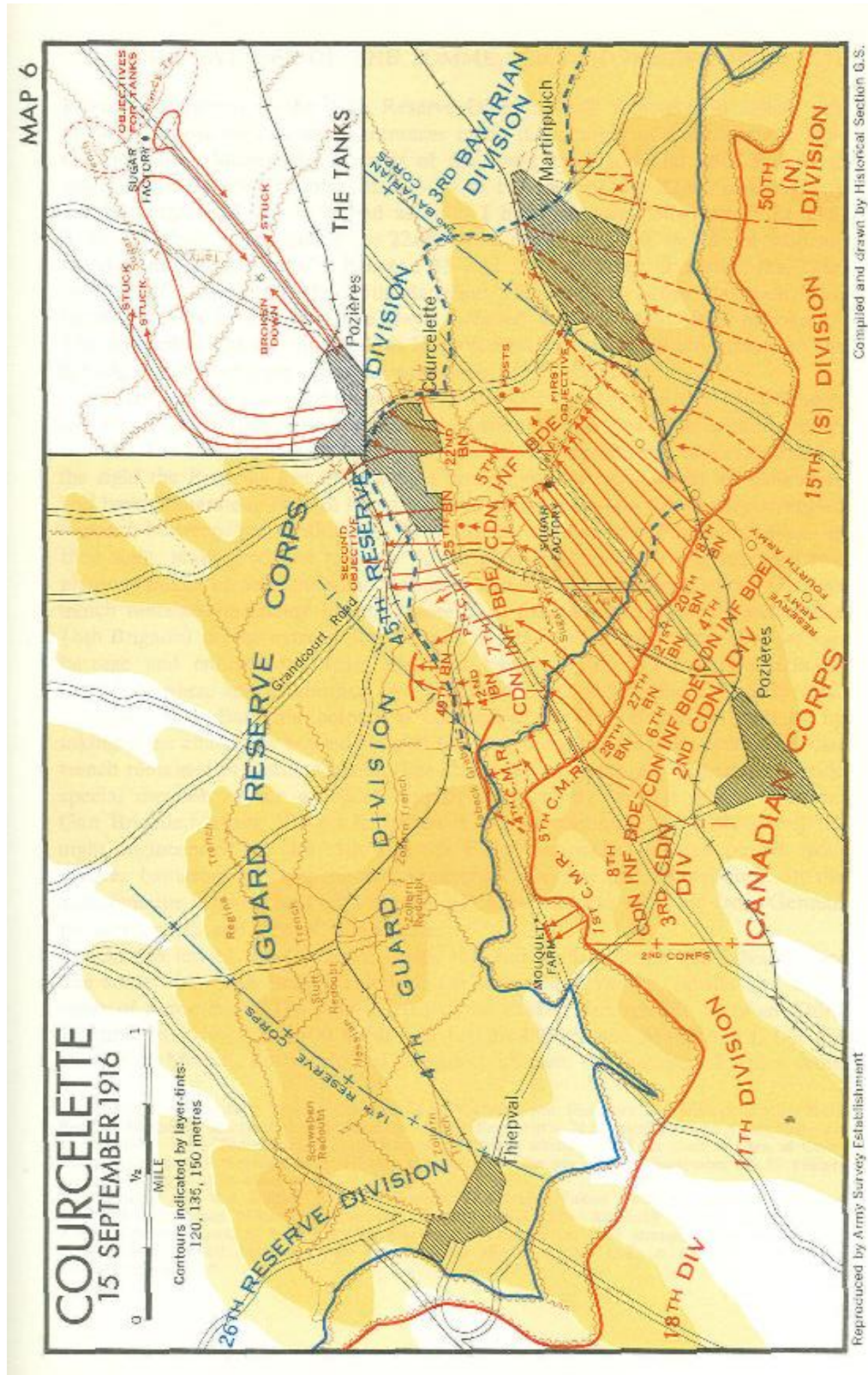
WAR DIARY of the 2nd CANADIAN BATT^N Army Form C 2118.
OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY for the month of
(Erase heading not required). **SEPTEMBER 1916 (CONTINUED).**

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

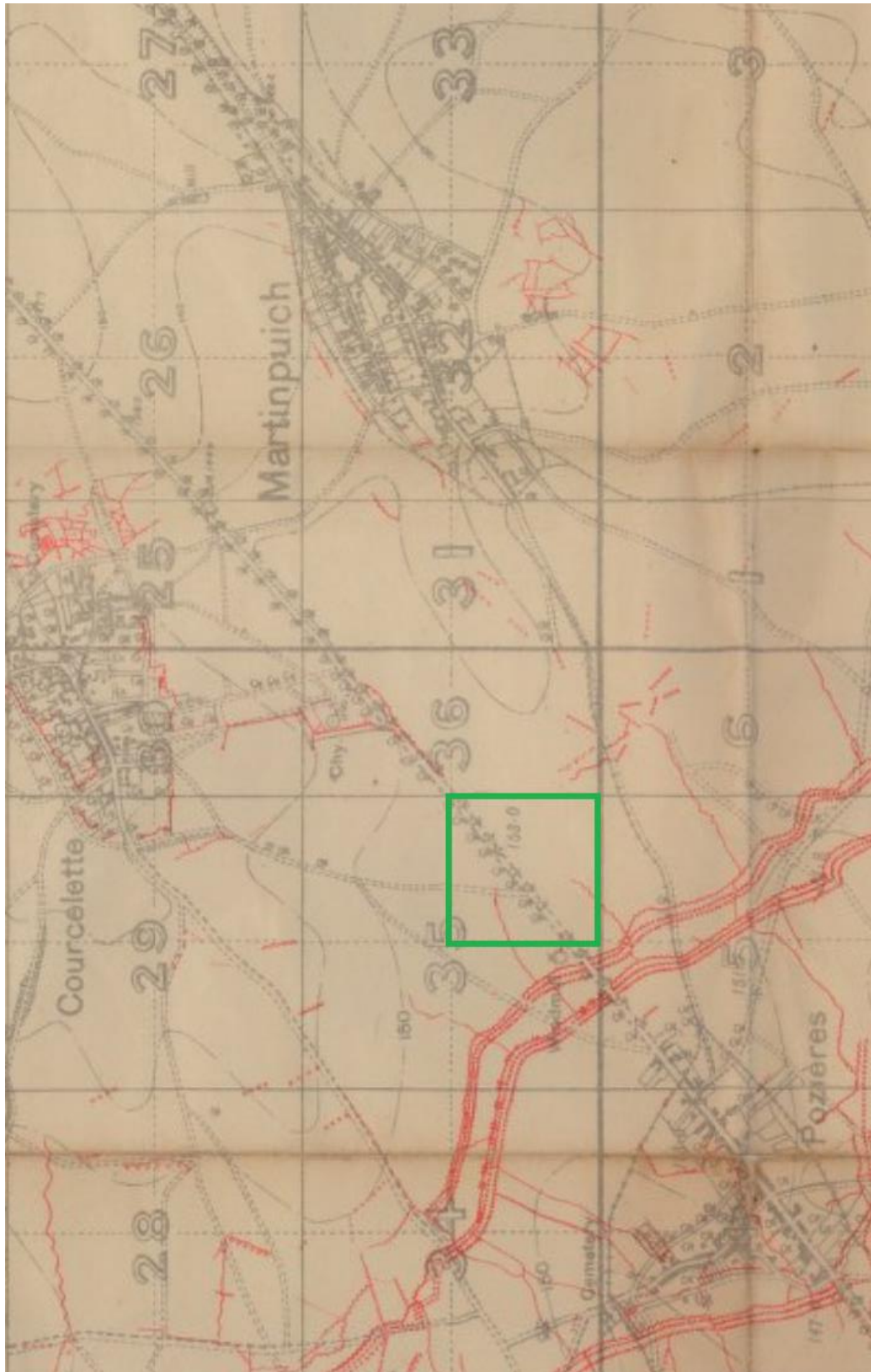
Place.	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information.	3	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRENCHES (BAPAUME Sector).	9/9/16		gained, and situation was well in hand. Trenches blocked and consolidated. Enemy M.G. fire from direction of MARTINPUICH made consolidation very difficult. Objective gained on enemy double company frontage - length, 550 yards. Average depth, 200 yards. 1 company of 2nd Bn. Co. moved up in support, and was in position 7.16 pm. 10.25 pm. BOMBING POST on left driven in. Re-established shortly afterwards. Situation fairly quiet during night, and early hours of morning, although enemy shelling was very heavy, particularly on our old front line communication trenches. Our own Artillery replied effectively.		
- do -	10/9/16		Morning very foggy. Dead buried, and our own and German wounded all taken out. Heavy shelling upon both sides. Relieved by 4th Bn. Co. Relief completed 6 pm, when battalion moved to billets in ALBERT. Our casualties for this tour were - 2 officers killed, 8 officers wounded (3 of whom died of wounds) Other ranks 73 killed, 145 wounded.		
ALBERT	11/9/16		Men rested all morning. Fell in 1.50 pm, and marched to WARLOY. Weather fine.		
WARLOY	12/9/16		Moved off 8 am. to billets at the FERME de ROZEL. Weather warm.		
FERME de ROZEL	13/9/16		Foot inspection. Men rested up.		
- do -	14/9/16		Rifle inspection in morning. 1.20 pm. Battalion moved to billets at LE VAL DE MAISON.		
LE VAL DE MAISON	15/9/16		Battalion fell in at 6 am, and marched via CONTAY to billets in the vicinity of HARPONVILLE. Weather very hot.		
HARPONVILLE	16/9/16		Received orders to move. Fell in at 3.45 am, and marched to BRICKFIELDS, where the whole Brigade bivouaced.		
BRICKFIELDS	17/9/16		Weather showery all day. Battalion moved, at 1.30 pm, to Brigade reserve. Men had to burn as there was no cover. Rained very heavily all night.		

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Sergeant Kelly



ATTACHMENT #5



ATTACHMENT #6

surname	forename	initials	H&A	death 1	death2	unit1	unit 2	number
KELLY	EDWARD L.	E L		09-09-16		2nd Bn.		'23081'
COX	LEWIS	L		05-03-17		2nd Bn.		'8086'
CURTIS	FRANK J.	F J		05-03-17		2nd Bn.		'437647'
KELSON	JOHN MORTIMER	J M		05-03-17		2nd Bn.		'210494'
PARKER	ALBERT	A	MM	05-03-17		2nd Bn.		'10686'
MARTIN	JOSEPH FRANCIS	J F		05-04-17		2nd Bn.		'401107'
FOX	CHARLES THOMAS	C T		18/08/1917		2nd Bn.		'412579'
McCAIG	ALLAN	A		18/08/1917		2nd Bn.		'189878'
PEPPER	FREDERICK HUBERT	F H		04-10-17		2nd Bn.		'401866'
MOORE	GEORGE HERBERT	G H	MM	30/08/1918		2nd Bn.		'172243'

ATTACHMENT #7

4-8-20 COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

REPORT No. 4.62 SCHEDULE No. 108/C.

Commune; - POZIERES. 3A. S. No. 2282

PLACE OF BURIAL OVILLEAS-LA-BOUILLE POZIERES B.C. dclg

Map Reference 57d.X.9.b.8-8. 60.65

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
PLOT 4. ROW "Q"						
2/ Can.Bn.		UNKNOWN	SGT.		ALL	37. ✓
K.O.S.B.		-do-	SOLDIER		Crosses	38. ✓
61/Can.Bn.	460332	LANE. ✓	PTE. H.	9-9-16	erected. 00/15/8/1332	39. ✓
22/-do-	120145	SANTE ✓ SARTE	PTE. J. R.	1-10-16	00/15/8/1111	40. ✓
12/D.L.I.	45895	NICHOLSON ✓	PTE. T.	24-9-16		41. ✓
22/C.E.F.	112081	McDONALD. ✓	PTE. A.			42. ✓
22 CANADIAN PIONEERS (BELIEVED TO BE)		UNKNOWN	SOLDIER	16-9-16	plain belt. 3/15/11 accepted. 00/16039	43. ✓
9/Y & Lanes. 3429/2396	3429/2396	FRANKLIN ✓ FRANKISH	PTE. W.	16-9-16	1/16/16/40 3/28332	44. ✓
9/Y & Lanes. 28-465	28-465	JONES ✓ JAMES.	SGT. D. J.	13-9-16	1/16/16/40 11838	45. ✓
		U.B.S.				46. ✓
10/Gordons.	12750	O'NEIL ✓	PTE. F.	13-10-16		47. ✓
D of Wells.		UNKNOWN	SOLDIER			48. ✓
H. L.I.	17384	McMEEKEN. ✓	PTE. G.	15-9-16	ENTERED. 1/10-20	49. ✓
Welsh Regt.	26435	ELLIS ✓	T. J.	28-8-18	SLIPS CHECKED. 0.8-3-11-20	50. ✓
-do-	73192	KNIGHT ✓	J. S. L.	25-8-18		51. ✓
C/122 Bde. F.A.	4028	WATTS ✓	DVR. W. C.	25-8-18	20/34289	52. ✓

Replace Band made (Gantelion) 1/18/25

6 31 5 W1163-P133 45,000 10/17 HWV(P117) Forms W3372/2
141-108 70,000 4/18

23.

SERIAL NO. 423

POZIERES 4/37E.

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Re-burials).

BURIAL RETURN. Canadian Graves Detachment 26-8-19

Name of Cemetery of Re-burial. POZIERES BRITISH MILITARY CEMETERY. Sheet 57D.X.9.b.8.8.

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found.	Was Cross on grave?	Regimental particulars.	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
4	Q	29	X. 11a. Sheet 57d	G.R.U.	L.C. 55 2480 Pte STEEL H. 9th Yorks		None
"	"	30	-do-	-do-	4432 Sgt. WHYTE A. 9th Gdn Hdrs.		"
"	"	31	X. 5c	-do-	15256 Pte DRYSDALE W. 6th Cam. Hdrs.		"
"	"	32	X. 11a	-do-	Sgt. HARPER 11th W. Yorks		"
"	"	33	R. 35d.	-do-	UNKNOWN 2nd Can. Bn.		"
"	"	34	-do-	None	-do-	-do-	"
"	"	35	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	"
"	"	36	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	"
"	"	37	-do-	-do-	2/Cans 18512 JAMES Pte. W.		"
"	"	38	-do-	G.R.U.	F.K. 16 Sgt, UNKNOWN 2nd Can. Bn.		Disc.
"	"	39	X. 11a	-do-	F.N. 77 UNKNOWN K.C.S.B.		None
"	"	40	R. 35d	None	LANE H. 61 Can. Bn.		"
"	"	41	X. 11a	G.R.U.	F.N. 48 120145 Pte. SANTEE J. 22nd Can. Bn.		Pocket Book
"	"	42	-do-	-do-	7250 Pte NICHOLSON T. 12th Durham L.I.		None
"	"	43	57D.X.12.a.1.5.	-do-	F.N. 50 22/C.E.F. 112061 McDonald Pte A.		"
"	"	44	-do-	-do-	F.N. 48 Can. Bn. WEBSTER Pte.		"
"	"		-do-	-do-	3 32-465 Pte. FRANKISH W. 17th N.Fus. att. 9 Y & L		"

ATTACHMENT #9

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author